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PTO/SB/21 (01-08) Approved for use through 04/30/2008. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 10/734,353 Filing Date TRANSMITTAL 12/12/2003 First Named Inventor **FORM** Нπ Art Unit 3732 **Examiner Name** Mai, Hao D. (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Attorney Docket Number GUID-011CON2 Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication to TC Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers Fee Attached of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC 1 Petition Amendment/Reply (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a Proprietary Information After Final **Provisional Application** Power of Attorney, Revocation Status Letter Affidavits/declaration(s) Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify Terminal Disclaimer Extension of Time Request below): -Postcard Request for Refund **Express Abandonment Request** CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Landscape Table on CD Certified Copy of Priority Remarks Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name Law Office of Alan W Signature Printed name (lan W. Cannon Date Reg. No. 34,977 **CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below: Signature Maria J. Sousa Typed or printed name

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## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: ommissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **Typed or Printed Name** Maria J. Sousa Signature 2008 AMENDMENT UNDER Attorney Docket GUID-011CON2 Confirmation No. 3571 37 C.F.R. §1.116 First Named Inventor Hu 10/734,353 **Application Number** Filing Date 12/12/2003 Address to: Group Art Unit 3732 Mail Stop AF **Examiner Name** Mai, Hao D. Commissioner for Patents Title Surgical Instruments for Accessing and P.O. Box 1450 Stabilizing a Localized Portion of a

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This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated May 9, 2008 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before August 9, 2008. This response is being filed within the two-month period ending on July 9, 2008. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.

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